Library of Congress

INFORMATION BULLETIN

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'To the Ends of the Earth':
The Library's Hebraica Collections

Library of Congress

INFORMATION BULLETIN

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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On the Cover: Michael Grunberger, Hebraic Section head, and Annlinn Grossman, conservation technician, discuss the final preparation for an exhibit that will include a scroll of the Book of Esther, called *Megillat Esther*. This scroll is read on the eve and morning of the festival of Purim. The Library's scroll is unusual for its age, size and calligraphy: late 14th or early 15th century; 32 inches high; its letters ¾ inch. Its calligraphy suggests a Gothic provenance, Central or Southern Germany.

Cover Story: The Hebraic Section has one of the world's finest collections of Hebrew and Yiddish materials. Starting this month the Library has on view "From the Ends of the Earth," an exhibit of some of the section's treasures. 227

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Thousands Flock For Reopening Of Reading Room

"I enjoyed it so much yesterday I came back again today," said one visitor as she filed past the information table on her way up the stairs to view the Main Reading Room, open to the public for the first time in 3½ years for two preview days on June 1 and 2.

She was not alone. On the two days, 12,086 people came to the Library to celebrate the reopening of the room, which has been closed for renovation since Dec. 9, 1987. The Library's Sales Shop, which set up a temporary sales outlet in its old location on the ground floor of the Jefferson Building, did a land-office business as visitors stopped to buy LC souvenirs.

The mood was festive, with balloons flying from the lampposts on the west front plaza of the building and musical groups performing

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This visitor dodged the crowd by getting on his hands and knees. ***Photo by Dan Dalrymple***

Crowds swarmed into the room; cutting the ribbon June 3 (from left) were Dr. Billington, Rep. William Barrett and Rep. Charles Rose. ***Photos by Helen Dalrymple and Reid Baker***

Open House Draws International Crowd

Visitors to the Main Reading Room included a considerable number from Europe, Asia and Africa.

On Saturday, after greeting what must have been a busload of Russian tourists (who spoke no English), LC staff volunteers quickly retrieved any available copies of the Library's "Services to the Nation" pamphlet, in all the versions currently available—Spanish, French, German, Russian, Chinese and Japanese—from the Public Affairs Office, for distribution.

This was a bit too late to serve the first Soviet group—who perhaps represent the result of the recent easing of travel restrictions by Moscow—but the pamphlet was obviously a very popular item as the two-day open house progressed. Almost all foreign-language versions of the guidebook were gone by Sunday afternoon, with some being sent overseas by American visitors. Also noted were numerous requests for an Italian version—not produced, as yet.

Besides the Soviets, large contingents of guests from other countries availed themselves of the pamphlets. *—John J. Wayne*

Reopening *(Cont. from p. 223)*
from noon to 4 each day. Even the weather cooperated—for the most part—although cooling showers Saturday afternoon drove everyone inside for an hour or so.

And the people kept coming, drawn by recent newspaper and television coverage, fliers handed out at the Capitol South Metro stop or the sound of the music from the west front steps of the Jefferson Building. Leo Anderson, the Library's venerable "town crier" was there as well, announcing the reopening and ringing his bell enthusiastically, despite the heat.

There was a steady stream of visitors on both days—families in their Sunday best, bikers, tourists from out of town and even Library staff members who hadn't had a chance to see the reading room for themselves. Three or four large tour groups swelled the throng late Sunday afternoon.

Library staffers volunteered in four-hour stints to hand out fliers and brochures inside and outside the building. They were also stationed at various spots in the Great Hall and in the reading room to explain to visitors what they were seeing and how the Library works.

A small exhibit of original architectural drawings and photographs of the Jefferson Building was a popular attraction; it remains on display in the east corridor between the reading room and the new Computer Catalog Center.

Everyone who visited received a commemorative bookmark. But it was clear from visitors' comments as they left the building that the most important thing they would take away with them was their memories of walking around the floor of the Main Reading Room and experiencing that spectacular space in the heart of the Jefferson Building.

The reading room was officially reopened to readers on Monday, June 3, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 8:30 a.m. Librarian of Congress James H. Billington, along with Rep. Charles Rose, vice chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, and Rep. William Barrett, ranking minority member of the committee, joined in cutting the ribbon following brief remarks by Dr. Billington and Rep. Rose. William Cochrane, staff director of the committee, submitted the first call slip to request a book, thus officially inaugurating the renovated room for reader use.

Although renovation of other areas of the building continues, regular Library tours, which originate in the Madison Building at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3 p.m., Monday–Friday, will include a stop in the Visitors Gallery overlooking the Main Reading Room. Tours will also be available on Saturdays and Sundays. Call the Visitor Services Office, (202) 707-5458, for details.

—Helen Dalrymple

House Committee Reports $22 Million Boost for LC

The House Appropriations Committee on May 30 reported H.R. 2506, the legislative appropriations bill for fiscal 1992. Included in the bill is an appropriation to the Library of $327,456,000, including authority to obligate $23,279,000 in receipts. This represents an increase over 1991 funding of $22,385,000.

For the appropriation for Library Salaries and Expenses, which supports the Office of the Librarian, Collections Services, Constituent Services, Cultural Affairs, Library Management Services, Special Projects, and the Law Library, an appropriation of $201,494,000 was recommended, including authority to spend $7,300,000 in Cataloging Distribution Service receipts.

The increase allows for 11 new positions and funding for 18 authorized but previously unfinanced positions. Mandatory pay increases of $11,550,083 are provided for in Library Salaries and Expenses.

In addition, an increase of $6,382,267 is provided for Collections Services, including $638,000 for the purchase of books, $310,000 for the preparation of books, $14,700 for public services and $5,419,567 for the preservation of library materials.

The increase in preservation funds represents $5,200,000, including 10 new positions for the mass deacidification program.

The increase over salary costs for Constituent Services was $501,500, and $9,300 was recommended for the Law Library.

For Library Management Services, the total increase over salary costs was $2,495,594, including $345,700 for price increases, $167,400 for space rental, $1,467,800 for automation and $514,694 to begin operation of the St. Cecilia's property at Sixth and East Capitol streets.

For the Copyright Office, the committee recommended a total of $25,823,000, including authority to obligate $15,979,000 in copyright fee receipts. This includes increases for the basic program of $1,469,351 for mandatory personnel costs, $676,249 for 23 previously authorized but unfinanced positions and $606,200 for nonpersonal services.

For the Congressional Research Service, the committee recommended an appropriation of $55,725,000, which is an increase of $2,982,000 over 1991 appropriations.

For Books for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, $41,179,000 was recommended, which included an increase of $369,900 for mandatory personnel increases.

For furniture and furnishings, a total of $3,235,000 was recommended. Under appropriations to the Architect of the Capitol, an appropriation of $10,187,000 was approved for maintenance and operation of Library buildings.

New Poet Laureate Meets the Press

"There are worse crimes than burning books—one is not reading them," Joseph Brodsky, newly appointed Poet Laureate, told listeners when he met the press at the Library May 17, adding, "basically, what I would like to do is alter that inertia."

In answer to questions about his definite plans for the job, he responded that "several things were already in the contract, [including] readings of young American poets, and selection of [poetry] books for the Library," but that in addition he would attempt "to do all that's possible within the confines of the job . . . to alert the nation to the tremendous patrimony [poetry] it doesn't use."

According to Mr. Brodsky, American popular culture consists chiefly of "film—and jazz in particular." He described poetry as "known and not known . . . confined to academe. There is a tremendous body of wonderful stuff," which goes unread.

So is poetry to be confined only to the realm of academe?

"Throughout the history of our civilization, in antiquity and the Renaissance, enjoyment of poetry had to do with literacy. [Nowadays] there is no reason poetry should not be enjoyed by a wider range of the public."

Asked whether he believed that, as in England, the poet laureate should be offically required to produce poetry during his term, Mr. Brodsky replied that such a requirement was "not spelled out in the contract, but in Britain, the laureateship is for life, [so] this is understandable. Here, it is a different type of thing. It is not reasonable for the government to expect" such writings.

His friend and predecessor, Mark Strand, sitting nearby, noted that "occasions for [writing] poetry do not necessarily coincide with occasions for the nation as a whole."

Changing the subject, one reporter asked whether Mr. Brodsky had planned on poetry as his profession. He called his choice "an accident. I never intended to be a poet. At age 22 or 24, I found myself doing this more than anything else."

Asked another: Does he consider himself an American or a Russian poet? "It depends on whether a poet is defined by the language in which he writes," was the answer. Since the "bulk [of what I write] is in Russian, I am therefore a Russian poet." But "poetry as an occupation is a highly individualistic enterprise. In that sense, I'm American."

Mark Strand has said, "I don't think one has to be born here to be American. One has to feel American to be American, and I think Joseph Brodsky feels American."

Was Brodsky surprised at being named Poet Laureate? "Indeed surprised, and indeed I had reservations: that is the answer. It is going to be quite a hassle," he said, noting the burdens of writing on his own, while continuing some teaching at Mount Holyoke College and serving here in Washington.

"American culture is so poetic: drop a coin in a jukebox—out comes wisdom!" said Mr. Brodsky. "This country is so multifaceted, so diverse. On a daily basis, I have been less bored in this country than in any other place."

—John J. Wayne

Photo by Reid Baker

"Throughout the history of our civilization, in antiquity and the Renaissance, enjoyment of poetry had to do with literacy. [Nowadays] there is no reason poetry should not be enjoyed by a wider range of the public."

—Joseph Brodsky

LC in the News

☐ The May 15 luncheon visit of Queen Elizabeth II brought the Library even more press attention than the May 1990 visit of Raisa Gorbachev.

Librarian James H. Billington and the queen were pictured on the front page of *The Washington Post* "Style" section the following day. The story, "Warm Hugs and Cold Beer for the Royals," told how "Prince Philip threw everyone into a tizzy . . . by ordering a beer at lunch. There wasn't one to be immediately found at the elegant Library of Congress

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LC in the News *(Cont. from p. 225)*
affair, so someone raced out and got a six-pack."

The New York Times May 15 described preparations for the visit, focusing on culinary research. In "Jefferson to 'Preside' at Queen's Luncheon" the writer tells how "for weeks scholars at the Library of Congress [had] been perusing rare manuscripts and the chefs . . . [had] been testing and tasting . . . to produce a Jeffersonian luncheon fit for a queen."

Marvin Kranz, a specialist in American history in the Manuscript Division, called Jefferson "an amazing man" as he showed the *Times* reporter LC's copies of the third president's handwritten recipes for ice cream, meringues and macaroons. The macaroon recipe was used in making the cookies for the luncheon.

One of the caterers said he had checked on whether Queen Elizabeth had any dietary restrictions. "I was told no shellfish and not a lot of highly seasoned things," he said. "And I understand she likes sweets." Judging by the fact that she asked that a second dessert be sent to her guest quarters at Blair House (see LC *Information Bulletin*, June 3), the caterer knew what he was talking about.

His waiters were also instructed on how to address the queen ("your majesty" the first time, and then "ma'am").

And there was one final, important warning: "Under no circumstances are they to touch her."

☐ Another LC specialist was recently asked to name his favorite cookbooks for the April *Washingtonian's* "Deliciously Readable" article.

Leonard Beck, longtime curator of special collections in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division and author of *Two Loaf Givers*, a 1984 book about LC's rare cookbooks, had the most exotic tastes among those polled, including Julia Child, a former White House pastry chef and *Esquire* magazine's restaurant critic.

Mr. Beck chose *De Honesta Voluptate* (1475) by Bartolomeo Platina as his favorite cookbook of any kind. "This was the first cookbook printed by movable type, and it represented a dramatic break from the drabness of the Middle Ages. Its point of view is the intelligent enjoyment of life."

And Mr. Beck's favorite American cookbook is nearly two centuries old: *American Cookery* (1796) by Amelia Simmons. "This was the first truly American cookbook. . . . The 48-page book contains the first known recipes for such American dishes as johnnycake, Indian pudding and turkey with cranberry sauce.

"The Library of Congress," he continued, "has an 1808 edition of the book plagiarized in its entirety by one Lucy Emerson."

The queen waves to cheering crowds as (from left) Dr. and Mrs. Billington and Prince Philip escort her to the Great Hall; inside, the Librarian and her majesty head toward the receiving line of members of Congress, among others. *Photos by Marita Stamey and Jim Higgins*

A Collection Spanning Centuries:

LC Is One of World's Foremost Centers for Hebraic Studies

by Michael Grunberger

The Library's first documented Hebrew Book, a 17th century Hebrew-Latin tractate of the Talmud—was in the collection that Thomas Jefferson sold to Congress for the Library in 1815.

The Library of Congress, one of the world's foremost centers for the study of Hebrew and Yiddish materials, has acquired Hebraica since its earliest days. An exhibit, "From the Ends of the Earth: Judaic Treasures of the Library of Congress," is based on those collections.

According to Irene Burnham of the Office of Interpretive Programs, the exhibit is a "demonstration of America's receptiveness to all cultures—the people, as well as their civilization and their written legacies."

The items on display are relevant to all, not just those of Jewish descent, since they give "insight that spans centuries. And for me personally, what is remarkable about many of the items is the sense of humor evident in them. Although their makers were dealing with sacred traditions, the works are also funny, a characteristic not often found in sacred Christian" art and liturgy.

The makings for the exhibit go back to the first decade of this century, by which time the Library had acquired a number of important Hebraic works, including four incunables[1] and at least one miniature manuscript.

In 1912 Jacob H. Schiff, the well-known financier-philanthropist, purchased for LC (at Librarian Herbert Putnam's behest) nearly 10,000 Hebrew books and pamphlets from the private collection of Ephraim Deinard, a well-known bibliographer and bookseller. Through Schiff, the Library acquired a second Deinard collection in 1914, and it purchased additional Hebraica from Deinard in 1916 and 1920. These four collections, totaling some 20,000 volumes, form the nucleus of the Hebraic Section. Related reference works are found in other reading rooms, such as Newspaper and Current Periodical.

In 1914 Congress set aside funds to establish a Semitic Division in the national library. This initial appropriation, which officially marks the founding of what is today the

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On the eve of the 14th: Leaven is prohibited on Passover, which begins the 15th day of the month of Nisan and continues through the 22nd. The search for leaven commences at the beginning of the evening of the 14th of Nisan and concludes with its destruction the following morning. Both these customs are depicted on the first leaf of the Washington Haggadah (included in the Library's exhibit). At the bottom left, a man is searching a cupboard by the light of a candle, holding a feather in his right hand, which he uses to sweep the leaven into the bowl in his left hand. On the bottom right, the leaven in the bowl is being burned by a young man using bellows to fan the flames of the fire; from the Washington Haggadah, copied and illustrated by Joel ben Simeon (Central Europe, 1478). *Photo by Jim Higgins*

In conference (from left): Sharon S. Horowitz, reference librarian, and Peggy K. Pearlstein, senior reference librarian, with Edward Rosenfeld of Interpretive Programs and Michael Grunberger. *Photo by Reid Baker*

Hebraica *(Cont. from p. 227)*

Hebraic Section, covered the salary of Israel Schapiro, the librarian-scholar who served as chief of the Semitic Division from its creation until his retirement in 1944.

A Hebraic collection was established in the Library, in the words of then Librarian Putnam, in "recognition of the part which Hebrew history, literature and tradition . . . play and will play in the affairs of this country."

It was with the 1916 purchase—the first major acquisition of Hebraica with funds appropriated by Congress—that the Library enlarged its mission to include a commitment to strengthen its collection of materials relating to the cultural and spiritual heritage of Jews.

In the years that followed these initial acquisitions, the Library expanded its holdings to include all materials of research value in Hebrew and related languages. Today the section houses works in Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino, Judeo-Persian, Judeo-Arabic, Aramaic, Syriac, Coptic, Amharic and Tegrenia. The section's holdings are especially strong in the areas of the Bible and rabbinics, liturgy, Hebrew language and literature and Jewish history. Extensive collections of printed editions of Passover *haggadot*[2] have been assembled, as well as a comprehensive collection of *yizker-bikher* (i.e., Holocaust memorial volumes).

The Hebraic Section received a second major boost via the enactment of Public Law 480 in 1958, through which 25 U.S. research libraries, including the Library of Congress, were supplied with a copy of virtually every book or journal of research value published in Israel. The PL-480 program for Israeli imprints, coordinated by the Library, lasted from 1964 to 1973, and provided each of the participating institutions with an average of 65,000 items over the course of the program.

Since 1973 the Library has maintained this high level of acquisition. Hebraica is currently acquired through a variety of channels, including blanket order agreements with book suppliers in Israel and the United States, a network of exchange and gift arrangements with governmental agencies as well as academic and research institutions, copyright deposit and through recommendations and selections made by section staff members. Technical support for Hebraic acquisitions is provided by the newly established African and Middle Eastern Acquisitions Section (AMEAS) in the Order Division.

Almost 135,000 items are housed in a stack area adjacent to the section; they are available to researchers and scholars. The collection includes an extensive range of monographs; a broad selection of Hebrew periodicals, current and retrospective, popular as well as scholarly; and a variety of Yiddish and Hebrew newspapers reflecting all shades of opinion, from the religious to the secular and from the far right to the extreme left. Of particular interest to genealogists is a comprehensive collection of Holocaust memorial volumes documenting Jewish life in Eastern Europe before World War II, as well as a large collection of rabbinic biobibliographical works in Hebrew.

Housed among the 2,000 rarities in the special collections of the section are cuneiform tablets dating back 4,000 years, manuscripts, incunables, ketubot (Jewish marriage contracts), micrographies, miniature books, amulets and the section's most noteworthy treasure: the Washington Haggadah (named after the city where it is kept), an illuminated Hebrew manuscript copied and illustrated by Joel ben Simeon in 1478.

The approximately 300 Hebrew manuscripts held by the Library include a Hebrew translation of the Koran; responsa of rabbis; an illustrated 18th century Scroll of Esther; a selection of decorated ketubot from Morocco, Persia, Turkey and Corfu, Italy; an early Ethiopian Psalter in the Ge'ez language; and various commentaries on the Holy Scriptures.

The section's treasures include examples from among the first books printed in Portugal, Turkey and

Africa. With 24 Hebrew incunables housed in the section and an additional 15 in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division, the Library ranks as one of the world's most important public collections of these scarce Hebrew printed books.

Unique to its collections are more than 1,000 original Yiddish plays, in manuscript or typescript, written between the end of the 19th and the middle of the 20th centuries that were submitted for copyright registration to the Library and intended for the American-Yiddish stage.

At present, completed cataloging records for Hebrew and Yiddish books—in both vernacular script and romanized versions—are entered into the Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN) as part of its Hebrew script data base. Library of Congress catalogers were among the first to enter Hebrew script materials into RLIN.

Terry Wallis, senior rare book conservator, prepares a volume for the exhibit. *Photo by Reid Baker*

Specialized reference service on the Library's holdings of Hebraica is available to researchers and scholars. A reference collection—which includes such standard works as the Encyclopaedia Judaica, Jewish Encyclopedia and Encyclopaedia Hebraica, as well as directories, yearbooks and standard indexes to the periodical and scholarly literature—is maintained in the section. A browsing collection of current periodicals and newspapers is also available.

Margaret Brown (from left), senior paper conservator; Annlinn Grossman, conservation technician; and Doris Hamburg, section head, Paper Conservation Office, work on a manuscript. *Photo by Reid Baker*

Using resources available in the Hebraic Section, readers may research such topics as Jewish genealogy, Hebrew and Yiddish literatures, the politics of the Middle East, biblical archaeology and the American-Jewish community.

In addition to the broad range of materials available in the Hebraic Section, researchers in Jewish studies will find related materials in non-Hebraic languages or in special formats in other divisions and departments of the Library. Information on Jewish, as well as Israeli, law may be obtained in the Law Library. General reference works bearing on Jewish Studies—newspaper and periodical indexes, general encyclopedias, and almanacs and yearbooks—are in other areas.

To assist readers here and across the country in locating hard-to-obtain items, the section maintains union catalogs for items in both Hebrew and Yiddish listing the holdings of scores of libraries that have contributed copies of their cataloging records over the course of the last 30 years. Containing more than 600,000 catalog cards and including printed cards going back to 1901, the Hebrew and Yiddish union catalogs are a unique national resource, citing important bibliographic data as well as locations for items that do not appear in the Library's National Union Catalog or that have not yet been entered into RLIN's Hebrew data base.

The section's union catalogs contain information on variant editions, rare and out-of-print titles and works not owned (or owned but not cataloged) by the Library. In addition, the section maintains a union catalog of Hebraica on microfilm.

Mr. Grunberger is head of the Hebraic Section.

[1] Incunable: a book printed before 1501.

[2] Haggadah (pl. haggadot): the book containing the *seder ("set order")* ritual, retelling the story of the Exodus, which is recited at the festive meal of Passover.

New Exhibit Goes to the 'Ends of the Earth':

Judaica Featured in Madison Gallery

"From the Ends of the Earth: Judaic Treasures of the Library of Congress" will be on display in the Madison Gallery, where it will remain on view through Aug. 25.

Abraham J. Karp, rabbi, historian and author, who is professor of history and religion and the Philip S. Bernstein Professor of Jewish Studies at the University of Rochester, is the guest curator of the exhibition and the author of the illustrated volume that accompanies it.

Reflected throughout this exhibition is America's commitment to collect, preserve and make available to the world evidence of the civilizations and cultures of all those who came to America in search of freedom and opportunity.

The sampling of books, manuscripts, prints, maps and photographs displayed in "From the Ends of the Earth" record the spiritual and cultural creativity of the Jewish people. Among the items featured are letters to contemporary Jewish leaders from Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Madison and Lincoln; music composed by Leonard Bernstein, Arnold Schoenberg, George Gershwin, Aaron Copland and Irving Berlin; papers and manuscripts of Sigmund Freud and Albert Einstein; and Hebrew literary and religious masterpieces spanning centuries. These treasures, gathered "from the ends of the earth," have found a home among the 97 million items housed at the Library of Congress.

"From the Ends of the Earth" marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Library's Hebraic Section, one of the world's foremost centers for the study of Hebrew and Yiddish materials. Michael Grunberger, head of the Hebraic Section, is the Library curator for the exhibition.

The exhibition is divided into seven sections that tell the story of the Library's Judaic treasures from a variety of perspectives.

☐ **First Judaica and Judaic Firsts** begins with the first examples of Judaica included in the early collections of the Library, which were part of Thomas Jefferson's library of 6,487 volumes, purchased by Congress to replace the collections lost in the burning of the Capitol by the British in 1814.

Added to these are some of the "Judaic firsts" since acquired by the Library: the first Hebrew book printed by Gershom Soncino, the greatest of all Hebrew printers; one of the first seven printed Hebrew books; the first Hasidic publication; and the first books printed in Lisbon, on the African continent and in the Holy Land.

☐ **Cornerstones of the Faith—the Bible and the Talmud**—are the focus of the second section. On display are items such as a late 14th or early 15th century Megillah Scroll (the Book of Esther); rare and unique Bibles; fine editions of the Talmud (one dedicated to the U.S. Army published in Munich-Heidelberg in 1948, only three years after the Holocaust); as well as examples of translations of and commentaries on the writings of Moses Maimonides (1135–1204), the first codifier of Jewish law.

☐ **Adding Beauty to Holiness** is

The *Titanic* Disaster: The sinking of the super transatlantic liner *Titanic* was a tragedy that engulfed all of America. The Jewish community was particularly touched by the drowning of Ida Straus, who refused a place on a lifeboat reserved for women and children, choosing to share the fate of her husband, the noted philanthropist Nathan Straus. The drawing by J. Keller portrays an angel placing the wreath of immortality on their heads; cover of sheet music by S. Smulewitz (Small), *Hurban Titanic* ("The Titanic's Disaster") (New York, 1912).

taken from Jewish tradition, in which one is enjoined to add beauty to holiness. This has led for centuries to the adornment of many of the artifacts and documents of everyday Jewish life, such as *haggadot* (the order of the festive Passover meal), *megillot* (scrolls) and *ketubot* (marriage contracts). Several richly decorated manuscript leaves from one of the Library's great treasures, the *Washington Haggadah*, executed in the 15th century by Joel ben Simeon, are a highlight of this part of the exhibition.

☐ **The Jew in His World: Witnesses to History** demonstrates how Hebrew books have often been "witnesses to history." Among these are works exciting messianic expectations and celebrating or condemning purported messiahs; illustrated Hebrew books on science; and pamphlets, petitions and broadsides.

☐ **In the New World** displays items from the Library's collections that point to the early beginnings of the relationship of Jews with the New World. Jewish settlement in North America dates back to 1654 with the arrival in New Amsterdam of 23 Jews from Recife, Brazil.

Here will be shown, for example, correspondence of President George Washington with the "Hebrew Congregations" of Savannah, Newport, New York, Philadelphia, Charleston and Richmond outlining the guarantees of religious freedom granted all Americans; and Abraham Lincoln's directive immediately rescinding Ulysses S. Grant's General Order No. 11, which banned Jews from certain territories under Union control. Lincoln's quick action won the admiration and affection of Jews everywhere, which is evident in some of the published eulogies that were given in synagogues when he died.

Map of the Holy Land in Hebrew (1840) bears the description "Map of the journey of the Children of Israel from Egypt through the Desert to the Holy Land and the Dividing of the Same into the Twelve Tribes by their Lawgiver Moses, according to scriptures with a portrait of the author, Rabbi Jachiel Bar-Joseph, from Jerusalem." The map, lithographed by G. Endicott of New York and acquired by the Library as a copyright deposit, was entered by the "author," an emissary from the Holy Land, at the clerk's office of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

America: Haven and Home documents the growth and activities of Jews in the United States during its first century, from a population of 1,500 Jews in 1780 to 250,000 in 1880. During that time Jews became important to the economic, cultural, religious and civic life of the nation. Among the items displayed is the first Hebrew grammar published in Boston in 1735 and an extremely rare map of the Holy Land in Hebrew, dating from 1840.

☐ **In Our Mind's Eye: The World of Our Fathers** illustrates Jewish life during the nation's second century through books, periodicals and sheet music covers. Included are original holograph copies of musical manuscripts by such noted Jewish composers as Leonard Bernstein, Aaron Copland, Arnold Schoenberg, George Gershwin and Irving Berlin.

The exhibition of some 240 items is made possible by the support of the Project Judaica Foundation, Washington, D.C. Hours of the exhibition are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

—Helen Dalrymple

Book 'Contributions' Needed

Have you encountered references to the Library of Congress in works of fiction? Or have you glimpsed the Library in a movie?

If you have, the Center for the Book would like to know about it for possible use in a book on the Library of Congress in fiction and film. For books, information needed includes author, title, publisher, date and page number. A photocopy of the item would also be useful.

For a film, title, studio and date of release are needed. Send material to LC in Fiction and Film, Center for the Book, Room LM-605, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540.

Sumerian Text Is LC's Oldest Written Document

[^{d}nin-gir-su] ur-sag-kal-ga en-lil-lá-ra gù-dé-a ensí (PA.TE.SI) lagaš ([SIR].BUR.LA) ki-ke$_4$ [níg-du$_7$-e pa] mu-na-e (UD.DU) é-ninnu ^{d}anzu (IM.MI) musen babbar (BAR$_6$.BAR$_6$)-ra-[ni] mu-na-[dù] ki-bé mu-na-[gi$_4$].

For readers not familiar with Sumerian, the paragraph above reads: "For Ningirsu, the strong warrior of Enlil, Gudea, Prince of Lagaš, has made what will last forever; he has built his (Ningirsu's) Eninnu (temple), the flashing thunderbird, and returned it to its place for him."

This text was recently translated to English from a clay tablet belonging to the Hebraic Section's cuneiform collection. Sumerian is the world's oldest written language, appearing sometime around 3200 B.C. in what is present-day Iraq. The language was written by pressing a wedge-shaped stylus on soft clay. Although the book *Treasures of the Library of Congress* says the oldest cuneiform texts in the collection date to 2040 B.C., the texts recently translated push the date back by almost 100 years. It was written during the reign of Gudea, who ruled from 2144–2124 B.C.

Although the cuneiform tablet is slightly damaged, with portions missing, a reconstruction of the text is possible. The inscription can be reconstructed because the text, called a votive inscription, follows a pattern.

This clay tablet is more than 4,000 years old. *Photo by Yusef El-Amin*

The missing portions, therefore, can be presumed with relative accuracy. The reconstructed portion is in brackets in the transliteration above. The votive inscription in the Library's collection is a rather well known text from Gudea, with a few similar copies existing in major collections.

Who was Gudea? He was a wise, powerful ruler from the Second Dynasty of Lagaš. The few extant statues of Gudea show him striking serene and peaceful poses, rather than the usual warlike poses of other Mesopotamian rulers. Even though his kingdom extended over all the Sumerian cities in present-day southern Iraq, he usually humbly referred to himself as *ensi*, or prince, rather than *lugal*, or king.

Virtually all of the ancient Near Eastern kings designated their years of rule by citing "the year I destroyed such-and-such city." But in his typically modest fashion, Gudea never did, naming each of his 20 years of rule after building projects and appointments. Lagaš, under Gudea's reign, had become the paramount Sumerian city through trade. Gudea usually imposed his political will through economic sanctions, rather than through military might. Through clever manipulation of trade routes, Gudea could simply financially crush his opponents. The Library's small collection of cuneiform tablets numbers only 39 objects, but it does contain a few rare and valuable pieces. The votive inscription of Gudea is one of those rare pieces, with similar copies found only in the world's leading museums.

—David K. Moore

The author is also the translator of the Sumerian text.

Hebrew Symposium Planned for June 20

In addition to the exhibition, the section's anniversary will be marked on June 20 with a one-day symposium on the Hebrew book sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and the Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Maryland.

Papers will be presented on the Deinard collections of the Library; illuminated Hebrew manuscripts; the Hebrew book in the Ottoman Empire, Italy and the United States; and on contemporary Hebraica and Judaica book arts. Presenters include: Leila Avrin (University of Michigan and Hebrew University); Bernard D. Cooperman (University of Maryland); Joseph Gutmann (Wayne State University); Joseph R. Hacker (Harvard University and Hebrew University); Abraham J. Karp (University of Rochester and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America); and Myron M. Weinstein (Library of Congress).

A Hi-Tech Showcase in Updated Main Reading Room

This is the second of a two-part story (see LCIB, June 3) on the technology in the Main Reading Room.

Library staffers faced a technological challenge during the past six years in the Jefferson Building. They overcame it, nicely.

With Yankee ingenuity that would have made their forebears proud, they transformed the Main Reading Room of the 19th-century Jefferson into the Library's technology showcase for the 1990s and beyond. When the Main Reading Room reopened June 3, researchers and reference librarians had at their fingertips the most modern technology with which to search the Library's 11.9 million-record data bases, and to retrieve and download information.

The information contained in this old card catalog is still available in the Main Reading Room, but it will now be accessed on high-speed terminals connected to these computers. *Photos by Yusef El-Amin*

"This [Main Reading Room] is our biggest example of how technology is changing," said Mike Handy, User Support Group leader, Information Technology Services (ITS), on the eve of the reopening. "This provides a glimpse of technologies to come, a platform on which we plan to build the Library's information systems for the future."

Victory was not easy. During the past two years, ITS analysts and engineers agonized over decisions to invest thousands of hours of staff time and hundreds of thousands of dollars in new information systems that have to work well for the next 20 years or longer. They had to assess prototypes, test what was on the market, anticipate what was coming and invent what they could not find. With no industry standards to ensure system compatibility, they had to create ways to make hardware, software and information networks work together with no glitches.

ITS staffers, in cooperation with reference librarians, began planning their technology attack on the Main Reading Room in August 1989. Attending the first planning meeting, in addition to Mr. Handy, were ITS Director Herb Becker; Resources Manager Barbara Finfrock, who was assigned the duty of project coordinator; senior ITS analysts Howard Kierzewski and Manny Bahrami, who engineered a superhighway system for data transmission; and Victoria Hill, head, Main Reading Room. Even with a superhighway system designed or in place for high-speed data transmission, planners faced these problems and decisions:

☐ "Dumb" terminals, which had provided Main Reading Room researchers access to data stored in the Library's mainframe computer for more than 20 years, were slow and hard for untrained readers to use. Personal computers (PCs) were 400 times faster, adaptable to user-friendly search programs and familiar to many prospective patrons. However, there was no easy way to connect them to the mainframe.

☐ A decision to switch to PCs, the technology of choice for libraries as well as homes and offices, would mean a major investment of time and money. And the PCs had to be linked to data bases and all communications systems inside the Library as well as to outside networks.

☐ A network of compact disc read-only-memory (CD-ROM) devices requested by reference librarians did not exist on the scale envisioned for the Main Reading Room. ITS analysts would have to invent one.

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Phyllis Thomas assembles workstations in the new Computer Catalog Center. *Photo by Yusef El-Amin*

Technology *(Cont. from p. 233)*

"We were faced with the prospect of leasing more Comterms (dumb terminals) or making a commitment to PCs as the mainframe terminal devices," Mr. Handy said. "PCs were primarily stand-alone devices not hooked into data bases. The Library recognized the potential of linking PCs in order to share printers, software and files, but our job was to provide mainframe service to [library data base] users."

Although they were slow and hard to use, the old Comterm terminals, which each had its direct line to the mainframe, had one advantage: they displayed diacritic marks that help scholars search and retrieve records of foreign-language materials.

ITS found these solutions:

☐ LANs. Program analysts opted for a high-speed local area network (LAN) that links PCs to the mainframe and other telecommunications systems. One LAN serves reference librarians and readers in the Main Reading Room and a second serves the Computer Catalog Center.

☐ PCs. Analysts selected PCs–IBM PS2s. They will display diacritics with new software that is being developed for delivery this summer.

☐ ACCESS. Maryle Ashley, head, Bibliographic Systems Section, Systems Analysis Office, ITS, worked closely with reference librarians to develop ACCESS, a software program that runs on a PC. ACCESS guides users through fast, easy, touch-screen searches for bibliographic information. Behind the screens, ACCESS communicates in familiar language with mainframe software, which searches the data bases and retrieves records from MUMS, SCORPIO and other LC files.

☐ CD-ROMs. ITS created a CD-ROM network accessible by PCs. This Main Reading Room technology cost approximately $500,000.

A LAN Is Born. Once planners made a commitment to replace Comterms with PCs, the staff spent "thousands of hours" in "extremely strenuous conversation" over how to connect PCs to the mainframe, Mr. Handy said. They knew a local area network was the answer, but they had to choose one that would:

☐ Manage vast amounts of data at high speeds without message collisions, garbles and downtime.

☐ Interface with the Library's mainframe, which stores nearly 12 million on-line catalog records, as well as more than 5,000 PCs they predict will eventually be in use by staff members and patrons.

☐ Connect to various other in-house networks that provide E-Mail bulletin board service and that track everything from reading room use to book loans, serial orders and copyright applications.

☐ Interface with extra-Library networks and communications systems, such as those linking other federal libraries and information centers, state libraries and research and university libraries.

☐ Allow some control over file access and security as required by Congress.

ITS staffers could not afford to make the wrong choice. The cost of hooking up one PC to a LAN is about $1,000, and the system selected would have to prepare the Library not only for today's technology but also for anything coming over the horizon of the 21st century.

"If you're going to get anywhere near the leading edge, you've got to pick which technologies are going to succeed," Mr. Handy said. "One critical thing was determining whether we had enough knowledge and confidence to make a decision," said Tom Littlejohn, chief of systems programming for ITS. He took a lead role in testing LANs.

The first LAN linked three computers on Mr. Littlejohn's desk. For nearly two years, he and other analysts experimented with a system similar to that used by AT&T. They selected a token ring system that now links approximately 70 Main Reading Room area PCs to the mainframe. (Benefits from Mr. Littlejohn's work spin off to the rest of the Library.)

The token ring LAN enables each PC with a "ticket" to ride a high-speed network that can carry 4 megabits of data (the equivalent of 4 million bits or one-half million

characters) per second. This system is approximately 400 times faster than the central-controller type of direct-line system that links individual terminals with the mainframe.

"It took a little bit of a leap of faith to go with a token ring," Mr. Littlejohn said. He had to ensure that the network chosen would allow PC access to and use of information stored by the mainframe computer, which runs with a mainframe-operating system called MVS/XA—an IBM product similar to a PC's disc-operating system (DOS). MVS/XA allows three principle operations:

☐ The running of VTAM, a program that controls message transmissions between the mainframe and terminals.

☐ The running of Customer Information Control Systems (CICS) software, which allows programmers to write applications to allow manipulation of data stored by the mainframe.

☐ Access to LOCIS (Library of Congress Information System) and its subsystems, MUMS and SCORPIO—each with files of bibliographic records for books, serials, music, maps, audiovisual materials and searching aids, such as the National Union Catalog and name and subject authority files.

The LAN also had to link PC users in the Main Reading Room and Computer Catalog Center to a central bank of CD-ROM drives so that readers and librarians could make use of popular new information technology.

CD-ROMS—Dishing Out Platters of Information. A CD-ROM is to a reader what a CD is to a music listener. Both use laser technology to store and access hours of recorded sound or volumes of text and graphics in digital format on 5.25-inch compact discs. A listener can load a CD recording of baroque music or blues into a player hooked into a stereophonic sound system—or tune into a favorite radio station. A Library visitor can choose a CD-ROM selection from an on-screen menu and tap into the CD-ROM network that will play the request. Private vendors and public agencies now are publishing volumes of reference works and journal articles as well as multitudes of data bases on searchable CD-ROMs, making them popular additions to modern automated libraries.

General Reading Room (GRR) staffers planning the reopening of the Main Reading Room asked ITS about a year ago to design a network to link a central bank of CD-ROM drives to workstations located throughout the Main Reading Room and in the Computer Catalog Center. This request presented ITS analysts with a tall order. A CD-ROM drive was primarily a stand-alone device hooked to an individual PC for use by one person.

"Mature industry standards to ensure compatibility of hardware and software are only now evolving. We are on the bleeding edge."
—Paul Ringel, senior systems analyst

GRR wanted a reference center jukebox that could play several CD-ROMs at once and enable researchers to share the same CD-ROM resource simultaneously. Furthermore, the system should be easy enough for patrons to use with little or no coaching from librarians.

Mr. Handy, Ms. Finfrock, Mr. Littlejohn and Mr. Bahrami investigated two small CD-ROM networks, one at the Howard County (Md.) Public Library and one at the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Md., which had a network linking three workstations—far smaller than anything visualized for the Library's new research facility. ITS analysts passed the ball to Paul F. Ringel, a senior systems analyst, whose task was to find and test software from many different vendors to see what would mesh and what would run on the new token ring LAN, which would link CD-ROM drives and workstations.

"Mature industry standards to ensure compatibility of hardware and software are only now evolving," Mr. Ringel said. "We are on the bleeding edge." He shopped around, and soon various pieces of hardware and software began to pile up in his office. CD-ROM hardware and OPTI-NET network support software, which integrates well with the Library's LAN technology, came from Online Computer Systems of Germantown, Md.

Mr. Ringel developed a prototype—a microcomputer with one CD-ROM board connected to one four-drive CD-ROM unit. During the next year, he created software to integrate this full-scale networked CD-ROM system:

☐ The requested bank of CD-ROM drives at the central reference desk in the Main Reading Room. Initially, in response to readers' keyboard requests, two servers will feed compact discs to 32 drives (16 per server). The OPTI-NET networking software will enable nine servers to work on a single CD-ROM network.

☐ Network connections via the token ring LAN to six workstations at the reference desk and 12 stations in Main Reading Room alcoves. The six stations at the reference desk will also have access to the Library's data bases included in LOCIS and dial-up access to on-line data base services outside the Library.

"I believe when we open [the Main Reading Room] in June, this will be the largest CD-ROM network in the country," Mr. Handy said.

Involved in the CD-ROM planning with Mr. Ringel was a GRR

(Cont. on p. 236)

Technology *(Cont. from p. 235)*
group–John Kimball, Sandra Lawson, Mary "Cassy" Ammen, and Larry Boyer.

ITS Operates Telephone System. The divestiture of Ma Bell in 1985 presented the Library with an opportunity to operate its own telephone system. Renovation of the Jefferson and Adams buildings was a perfect time to rip out old analog system wires and install new wiring to accommodate modern digital telephones, clear, high-speed voice communications, and data transmissions from fax machines and computers. Instead of having to rely on workers from an AT&T subsidiary, the Library could take responsibility for telephone installation, maintenance and repairs.

ITS now runs System 85, a mini-telephone company with its own PBX system. In charge are Tom Kearns, a senior systems analyst for ITS, and Leslie Turner, an ITS communications management specialist with telephone company experience. They explained some System 85 advantages over the former CENTREX analog system:

A digital telephone system improves the quality of voice communications in and from the Library; allows the use of digital telephones with Audix answering service capable of 150 features; provides a telecommunications network for fax transmissions and dial-up access via PC modems to nationwide networks, such as the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC); and transmits communications at faster speeds–19,000 bits per second compared to 2,400 bits per second. Another feature links a computer and telephone to the same line so a staffer can maintain simultaneous voice and data contact with someone on the other end of the line.

The system now accommodates a total of 6,500 lines for phones and 1,500 lines for fax machines and modems.

Among System 85's new customers are the Main Reading Room and the Computer Catalog Center, where Ms. Turner designed the telephone service. With System 85, the Library now has three telecommunications systems–direct-line hookups between the mainframe computer and dumb terminals, the new local area networks and the telephone system.

Buying and Installing Equipment. The last and most visible part of the Main Reading Room project was to order and install PCs and peripheral equipment. In charge of this part of the project was Michael McClure, team leader, Operations, Maintenance and Installation. Assisting him were Phyllis Thomas, Eric Ingram, Robert Morgan, and Jim McGrory, all communications spealists with ITS.

In short, the upgrades have made the Library's information more easily accessible to the nation.

–Gail Fineberg

Compact Disc Gifts

Dr. Clark C. Abt, president and publisher of Abt Books Inc., visited the Library March 27 to present a gift of two CD-ROMs published by his company. Dr. Abt donated discs of *The International Drug Library*, which he edited, and the *Permanent Collection of Notable Americans* of the National Portrait Gallery. The latter includes 3,093 images in both color and black and white, and more than 200 detail enlargements, dating from the 17th century to the present in a wide variety of media.

The International Drug Library includes 6,000 documents, including books, articles, images and statistical information, on the illegal drug industry and related issues.

Judy C. McDermott, chief of the Exchange and Gift Division, accepted the gift on behalf of the Library.

Enjoying a demonstration of the American Notables disc were (clockwise from left) John Kimball, chief of Automated Reference Services; William J. Sittig, director of the Collections Policy Office; Dr. Abt; Carl Fleischhauer, director of the American Memory Project; and Linda Arret and Sandy Lawson, senior reference specialists for automated services.

Law Library Hosts International Legal Indexers

Law librarians' have long wanted to gain access to legal indexes from as many countries as possible to as many subjects as possible.

On May 1, the Law Library cosponsored a workshop aimed at achieving that goal. Participants got off to a good start.

The conference, also sponsored by Harvard University Law Library and the Research Libraries Group, brought together more 30 specialists from the Library of Congress, academic law libraries, United Nations agencies, commercial abstracting and indexing firms, and private nonprofit research institutes.

Said Law Librarian M. Kathleen Price: "I never dreamed how complex it was until I came to the Library of Congress and we actually set about attempting to identify and obtain every foreign legal index that we could." Ms. Price's immediate target was that the conferees agree on the need to put disparate indexes into a common machine-readable format.

Harvard's Terry Martin said his interest in cochairing the conference was to bring together people who do not ordinarily meet but who have many common concerns. For example, a U.N. office in Vienna or Geneva has the same problems obtaining copies of legal gazettes as does the New York Public Library or the Law Library at Berkeley.

Shoeboxes and Computer Networks. The participants, many of whom described themselves as "shoebox and paper clip people," listened to Brett Butler of the California-based MEMEX Research Institute outline a possible Electronic Library ("E-Library" for short) composed of an international network of computers. The technology already exists. But solutions to institutional and organizational problems are still needed.

The system would make it possible to obtain the text of any document, including a law, stored in a computer at any participating institution.

More than 30 specialists gathered at the Law Library for a meeting on a worldwide on-line legal index.

Meanwhile, Law Library staff used SCORPIO terminals to give participants a look at an existing international automated legal data base: the Hispanic Law Division's Hispanic Law Index, an on-line file providing English-language indexes and abstracts of the laws of 27 Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking nations, plus Haiti and the Philippines.

Rubens Medina, chief of the Law Library's Hispanic Law Division, said the index grew out of a card file begun in 1950 for the use of the division's legal specialists. By the early 1970s the card file was four years behind, and "for lawyers, not to be current is fatal." He knew it was time for a change when he had to respond to a request by saying, "The law in a certain country is, I think, I'm pretty sure . . . ."

Computerization meant that by 1976 the index was only one year behind, with much of the delay due to difficulties in getting the legal publications of foreign countries.

The Law Library now plans to use the proven methodology of the Hispanic Law Index for setting up indexes for other parts of the world, beginning with the Arabic-speaking countries.

Patricia McClung of the Research Libraries Group (RLG), a consortium of more than 30 institutions, described her group's plans to help libraries improve access to materials other than books, such as legal materials published as serials, gazettes or registers. RLG has developed a software package called Ariel, after the invisible spirit in "The Tempest." Ariel can scan documents, transmit their images and print them out on laser printers attached to personal computers. This makes it unnecessary to photocopy texts.

But for several of the European participants, such high-speed transmissions are impossible, given the outmoded telecommunications equipment in their countries. For them, it can take as long as 30 minutes to transmit even a single page.

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Terry Martin confers with Rubens Medina, Hispanic Law Division chief, on the division's on-line file.

Legal Indexes *(Cont. from p. 237)*

Countries Where the Phones Don't Work. Linda Thompson, from the World Bank, pointed out that in Third World countries, the situation is more severe.

In some African capitals there is a wait of several decades for a new phone line. Many other attendees from U.N. agencies such as the World Health Organization said that if an international computer network were set up, it would not serve those countries lacking reliable electric supply or telecommunications systems.

They recommended a dual approach. For developed countries the task is one of agreement on common standards and protocols. For the developing world, there seems no clear alternative to the self-contained book or serial complemented by trained librarians and indexers.

Ms. Price noted that even if law libraries in developing countries have complete sets of their own legal materials, which is by no means always the case, they very often lack access to the laws of neighboring countries. The Library of Congress's proposed World Law Index would help them.

The immediate task is to identify the existing electronic data bases, national indexes and legal gazettes to fill in gaps in information and prevent duplication of efforts. Tom Reynolds of the Law Library at the University of California at Berkeley, said collecting foreign gazettes is "a luxury that very few libraries can now indulge in. Only the Library of Congress and the New York Public Library do it in a big way." But New York Public is now struggling just to keep all its branches open.

The Law Library has thus assumed responsibility in compiling a union list of the world's legal gazettes.

It was probably inevitable that a group of relative strangers from many institutions with common interests should end up founding an organization that would facilitate communication. The new group is called the International Legal Information Network.

—Donald R. DeGlopper

1991 Koussevitzky Awards Announced

The Serge Koussevitzky Music Foundation in the Library of Congress and the Koussevitzky Music Foundation Inc. have awarded commissions for new musical works to seven composers. The commissions are granted jointly by the foundations and various performing organizations, which will present the newly composed works.

Award winners and the groups cosponsoring their commissions are: Milton Babbitt and the Dinosaur Annex Music Ensemble; Arthur Jarvinen and Xtet; Anthony Korf and the New York Virtuoso Singers; George Perle and the Orchestra of St. Luke's, the Utah Symphony, the Columbus (Ohio) Symphony and the Fairfield (Connecticut) Orchestra; Terry Riley and the Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra; David Soley and Alea III; Steven Stucky and the Society for New Music.

The commissions range from $12,500 to $27,000.

The foundations also announce the election of two new members to the board of directors: composer and conductor John Adams, acclaimed for his opera *Nixon in China*, and Fred Sherry, cellist and artistic director of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

Serge Koussevitzky was conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra from 1924 to 1949. He died in 1951. Works commissioned by Koussevitzky and the foundations include established masterpieces such as Benjamin Britten's *Peter Grimes* and Béla Bartók's *Concerto for Orchestra*.

Commissions are awarded annually in a competition open to chamber ensembles and orchestras of any nationality; groups must submit the name of a composer whose work they would like to commission jointly with the foundations. Composers' manuscripts of commissioned works become part of the Koussevitzky

Collection in the Music Division of the Library of Congress.

Milton Babbitt has long been recognized as one of America's most influential composers and educators. This marks Mr. Babbitt's second Koussevitzky commission, the first awarded in 1964 for the orchestral work *Relata I*. The Dinosaur Annex Music Ensemble, now in its 16th season in Boston, joins the foundations in commissioning the composer's new chamber work. Mr. Babbitt has received numerous awards and citations for his work with the 12-tone system of musical composition and with electronic music. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and received a Pulitzer Prize Special Citation for "his life's work as a distinguished and seminal American composer." In 1938 Mr. Babbitt joined the music faculty at Princeton University, where he serves as Conant Professor of Music. He has directed the Columbia-Princeton Electronic Music Center since 1959.

Xtet, a contemporary chamber music ensemble based in Los Angeles, has commissioned with the foundations a work from Arthur Jarvinen. A performer as well as composer, Mr. Jarvinen is active as a new-music percussionist. His other commissions have come from the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Minnesota Composers Forum. In 1990 the composer was the recipient of a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). From 1978 to 1981 he achieved critical acclaim with the "Antenna Repairmen," a trio known for original combinations of percussion, poetry and theater. His musical and theatrical works have been featured in concerts and festivals throughout the United States, as well as in Canada, Estonia and Iceland.

Anthony Korf is commissioned by the foundations and the New York Virtuoso Singers, a professional chorus founded in 1988, to write a cantata for voices and chamber ensemble. Korf has served as director and conductor of the acclaimed ensemble Parnassus since 1974, and he is cofounder and associate artistic director of the Riverside Symphony in New York. Korf's work as a composer has been recognized through awards from the National Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), the Jerome Foundation and NEA. His works include symphonies and compositions for chamber ensemble and *Requiem for Chorus and Orchestra*, commissioned by the San Francisco Symphony.

George Perle's new piano concerto will be the result of a commission granted by the foundations and an orchestral consortium consisting of the Orchestra of St. Luke's (Roger Norrington, music director), the Utah Symphony (Joseph Silverstein, music director), the Columbus Symphony (Christian Badea, music director) and the Fairfield Orchestra (Thomas Crawford, music director). Each orchestra will perform the work, featuring noted American pianist Michael Boriskin, twice on its regular season programs during 1992–1993. Perle is the recipient of the Pulitzer Prize, a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, several Guggenheim Foundation awards, and an array of other major honors. His works, written in virtually every medium, have figured on the programs of major orchestras and ensembles throughout the world. Mr. Perle's first Koussevitzky commission was awarded in 1968 for *Serenade No. 2*, for chamber ensemble.

The Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra and the foundations have commissioned Terry Riley to write a piece for chorus and orchestra. The work will receive its world premiere on the opening concert of the Philharmonic's 1991–1992 season at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, with Denis Russell Davies conducting. Mr. Riley studied piano and composition at San Francisco State College and the University of California at Berkeley. In the early 1960s he worked in Paris at the ORTF recording studios, where he developed influential compositional techniques. His work *In C* (1964) helped lay the foundation for the "minimalist" movement and influenced a generation of composers in both classical and popular traditions. Mr. Riley has received awards from NEA and a fellowship from the Guggenheim Foundation.

David Soley, a doctoral candidate at Stanford University, is commissioned by the foundations and the Boston ensemble Alea III to compose a chamber work. Born in Panama, Mr. Soley served for three years in the U.S. Army Band before beginning formal music studies at California State University at Northridge. During the 1990 Tanglewood Music Festival, he was a Composition Fellow, studying with Leland Smith and John Chowning. His commissions have come from the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the New York Youth Symphony and Meet the Composer, and his music has been programmed by several orchestras.

The Society of New Music, based in Syracuse, N.Y., and the foundations have commissioned Steven Stucky to compose a song cycle for low voice and small mixed ensemble. Other commissions have come from the Los Angeles Philharmonic, where Mr. Stucky is composer-in-residence, the Philadelphia and Minnesota orchestras, and the Baltimore and St. Louis symphonies. In 1988 Mr. Stucky was one of 10 composers commissioned to write a new work honoring the centennial of Carnegie Hall. A member of the composition faculty at Cornell University, he is active as a conductor, writer and lecturer. He has received fellowships from NEA, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Society of Learned Societies and the Guggenheim Foundation.

—*Kate Rivers*

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